REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 14-17 are currently active.

Claim 1 and Claim 15 have been amended. Antecedent support for the amendments are found in Claim 10, page 7, line 1 and figure 1.

The Examiner has objected to Claims 8-11 and 14. Claim 8 now depends on Claim 6.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings in regard to reference characters 11 and 18. Figure 2 has been amended as shown in red in the attached figures. Figure 1 has been amended to show reference numerals for the now claimed seam 70 and face 72.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 15-17 as being anticipated by Kelmelis. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Kelmelis does not teach or suggest "the holes having edges which are straight, or edges which angle inwards or edges which angle outwards, the edges extending inwardly toward the fixture from a front surface of the layer. Kelmelis does not teach or suggest the

layer has a smooth flat outer face of the layer, and instead teaches a flange 43 disposed on the outer surface of the ceiling board 31. Accordingly, Claims 15-17 are not anticipated by Kelmelis.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 as being unpatentable over Hutain in view of Kelmelis.

Referring to Hutain, in pertinent part, Hutain teaches one or more torsion restoring springs 148A, 148B are secured to the perimeter of the wall 146. When the trim ring 126 is slipped into the bottom end 121B of housing 120, end hooks 149 of springs 148A, 148B engage bosses, tabs, or holes in the outer wall 122 and releasably lock in place, thereby holding the trim ring 126 tightly within and against the outer wall of the trim housing 120. See column 6, lines 44-56.

As shown in figure 2E, the aperture plate 210 has three generally circular apertures 212 through which lenses of the lamps 174C project. The aperture plate 210 is affixed along its perimeter to the inside surface of the lower end of trim housing 122. See column 10, lines 15-20.

Hutain does not teach or suggest "the holes having edges which are straight, or edges which angle inwards or edges which angle outwards, the edges extending inwardly toward the fixture from a front surface of the layer. Hutain does not teach or suggest the layer has a smooth flat outer face of the layer, and instead teaches a flange 43 disposed on the outer surface of the ceiling board 31. Accordingly, Claims 15-17 are not anticipated by Hutain.

As mentioned above, Kelmelis also does not teach or suggest "the holes having edges which are straight, or edges which angle inwards or edges which angle outwards, the edges extending inwardly toward the fixture from a front surface of the layer. Kelmelis does not teach or suggest the layer has a smooth flat outer face of the layer, and instead teaches a flange 43 disposed on the outer surface of the ceiling board 31. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 are patentable over Hutain in view of Kelmelis.

Claim 10 has been canceled.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections and objections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn, and Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 14-17, now in this application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

IRWIN KOTOVSKY

By _____
Ansel M. Schwartz, Esquire
Reg. No. 30,587
One Sterling Plaza
201 N. Craig Street
Suite 304
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
(412) 621-9222

Attorney for Applicant

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Ansel M. Schwartz
Registration No. 30,587

8/2/04
Date

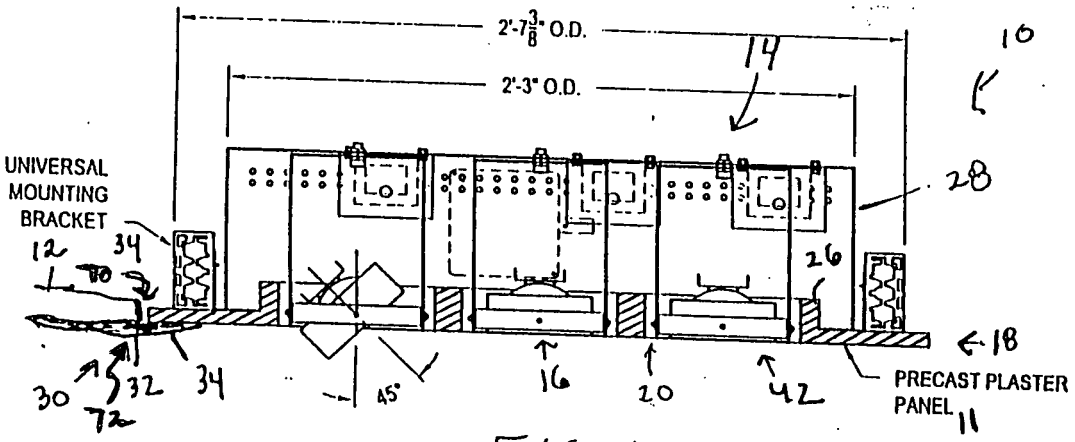

FIG 1

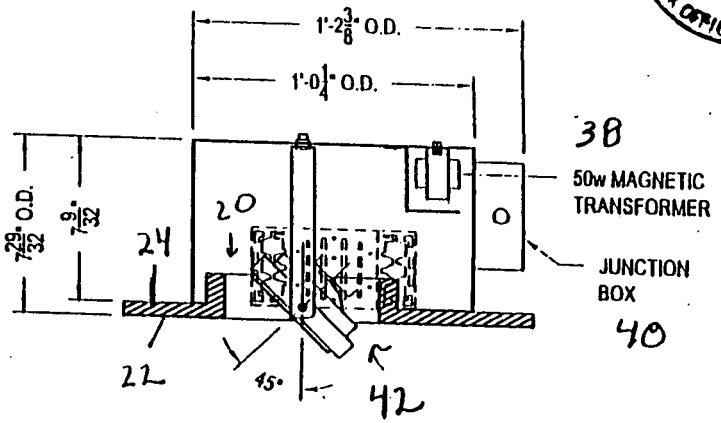

FIG 3

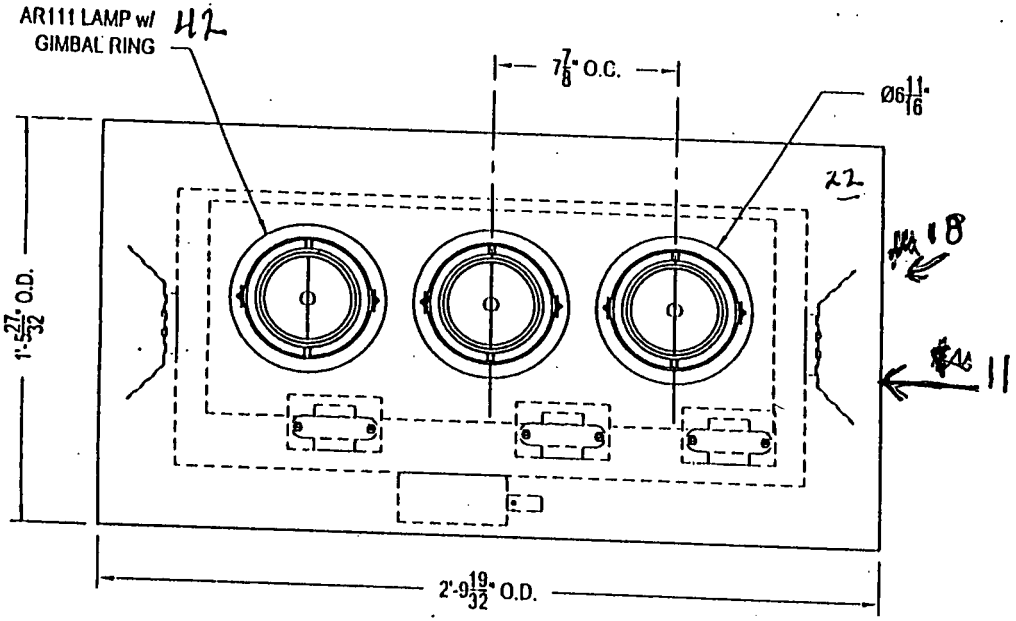

FIG 2

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